DEMOCRATIC
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NATO BOSS & PALS

General Speidel's Come-back

1940: General Speidel with Hitler

1957: General Speidel with Adenauer

HITLER'S "HUMANE" GENERAL

"The new Commander of N.A.T.O. ground forces in Europe, General Speidel ... is a humane man."
"The Observer", London, January 27th 1957

Just fifteen years ago, on February 28th 1942, this "humane man", General Hans Speidel, addressed a report to the nazi military commander in occupied France, stating in part: "Orders were given that 1000 Communists and Jews in the whole occupied territory should be transferred to German custody. They are being held for deportation to the East."

Who is this Speidel, and what stations has he passed in the path which has led him to the command of the British, French, United States and other divisions stationed in western Europe?

He is a round-faced, serious looking man of 58, who apart from his title of general also glories in the title of Doctor of Philosophy.

In the First World War he served as a lieutenant, and won himself two iron crosses. After the war he remained on active service, but combined his military duties with study at Tuebingen University. In 1924 he won himself the doctorate of philosophy with a thesis entitled "1813—1924 — A Military-Political Examination".

This thesis is particularly interesting for its basic theme that Germany was defeated in the First World War not in the field, but by a "stab-in-the-back" delivered by the homefront politicians, and particularly the Socialist politicians. Here are a few sentences from his thesis, which have some historical interest today, even though they were written over 30 years ago:

"The World War showed a really Germanic tragic fate... The revolution (of November 1918, ed.) was based not upon moral strength but upon moral weakness, the weakness of the people and the government.

(cont. on next page)

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HITLER'S "HUMANE" GENERAL

The people, abandoned by a government without a firm goal, and split by party differences, collapsed. The moral strength of the front-line was confronted by the moral weakness of the home front. The state and the army were destroyed by disintegration and a blow from within. The monarchy was overthrown, and the people drifted, leaderless like the government. Into the breach leaped the parties, a swarm of parasites on the body of the Reich . . ."

Promotion was slow in the Reichswehr of the Weimar Republic, and Speidel was still a First Lieutenant when he was promoted in 1930 to serve on the General Staff. Here he worked for the first time in an important post: he was appointed to the French Division of the department dealing with foreign armies. His job was to assess espionage information on the strength and stationing of the French Army.

He was so successful in this intelligence job that in Autumn 1933, just at the time when Hitler disrupted the Geneva Disarmament Conference, he was sent to Paris as assistant military attache to the nazi ambassador there.

No information has been made public as to what exactly Hans Speidel did during these last pre-war years in Paris, but it can safely be assumed that he continued successfully his intelligence activities.

In 1940 he participated as a general staff major in the nazi invasion of France, and on June 13th 1940 he personally accepted the capitulation of Paris from the French General Dentz.

His first job in nazi-occupied Paris was to act as guide round the French capital for Hitler, and he accomplished this task so well that Hitler promoted him on the spot to Colonel, and appointed him chief of staff to the nazi military commander in occupied France.

The nazi military commander was the man responsible at this stage of the war for the shooting of French hostages, and the deportation of "Jews and Communists" for liquidation in eastern Europe, and his chief of staff, Colonel Hans Speidel, had to organise this murder action.

A semi-official biography of Speidel, printed on July 4th 1956 in the West German newsmagazine "Spiegel" claims that "despite this, Speidel never personally signed any such orders."

And in fact no death sentences signed by Speidel seem to have survived the war. Other incriminating documents have survived, however, such as the following:

"Army Economy and Armaments Staff

Ref: 2495/41 Paris 9. 9. 41

Secret

Conference with the General Staff Chief on 9. 9. 41 at 9.30 a. m.

Colonel Speidel gave the following report:

1. Political: Minister of the Interior Pucheu (of the Vichy Govt. ed.) visited the Military Commander. He was handed a note stating that the sentencing of Communists was insufficient. For the shooting of the naval officer three death sentences were not a sufficient penalty . . ."

And on February 28th 1942, Speidel personally signed the report to the Military Commander quoted at the beginning of this profile. Photographic facsimiles of these two orders are available in the Berlin offices of GERMAN REPORT.

In 1942 Speidel was sent to do active service on the Eastern Front, where he served first as Chief of Staff of the 5th Army Corps in the Caucasus and later as Chief of Staff to the Eighth Army. In this position he ordered the "scorched earth" policy, the destruction of hundreds of villages, and the shooting of partisans and hostages during the long German retreat which started with the great nazi defeat at Stalingrad. He was responsible for many atrocities committed in the Voronesh area.

That he accomplished all these tasks to the full satisfaction of his nazi masters is shown by the fact that at the beginning of 1944 Hitler conferred upon him the decoration of the "Knight's Cross to the Iron Cross", one of the highest nazi medals. At the same time he was promoted to Lieutenant General and transferred back to France, where he became Chief of General Staff to Army Group "B" commanded by Field Marshal Rommel.

As Rommel's assistant Hans Speidel came into contact with the group of German officers who were plotting against Hitler, and took some part in their rather amateur plans to stop the war in the west and to throw all available German troops on to the eastern front. His support of the plot appears to have been extremely lukewarm. When the officers' bomb exploded on July 20th 1944 he made no attempt to swing his Army Group behind the plotters.

Despite this he was arrested by the Gestapo: but they obviously found little or nothing to hold against him, for while the real plotters were all executed, Speidel was merely confined under very comfortable conditions in a sort of "quarantine camp" for officers, and had no particular difficulty in surrendering to French troops with the rest of the quarantined officers in April 1945.

But his nominal part in the "Generals' Plot" stood him in good stead now, for instead of being imprisoned and put on trial as the war criminal he was, he could present himself as a "victim of nazi oppression". He spent the first difficult post-war years, when generals were not yet in much demand in West Germany,

Punch on Speidel

I went into the Ops Room for a dekko at the maps,
The Gill (Ops) 'e up an' says "A ruddy German, chaps!
Aw gee! Morbleu! Not good enough!" So bidding them goodbye
I 'ops it back to Bonn again an' to myself says I:
Oh, it's Jerry this, an' Jerry that, an' "Jerry keep your place";
But it's "Lead the troops o' NATO" when Khrushchev shoots off 'is face.

("Punch", London, January 23rd 1957)

as a research-worker on modern history in the Munich Institute for Contemporary History.

By 1951 he was on his way back, as one of the first nazi generals to be called in as adviser by Chancellor Adenauer, and since that date he has never looked back.

This General, who only fifteen years ago was shooting and deporting French hostages, and who fourteen years ago was burning Russian villages, is today taking over command of French, British and other troops in western Europe.

West Germany's Defence Minister Franz-Josef Strauss stated in an interview at the end of January 1957: "NATO is lucky to have a new commander who has real front-line experience both on the eastern and western fronts."

GERMAN TROOPS FOR AFRICA?

Plans were being made to station West German Wehrmacht units at rocket bases in French North Africa, War Minister Franz-Josef Strauss told the Military Affairs Committee of the West German Parliament on January 22nd. He had already visited some of the proposed bases, Minister Strauss stated.

Cannon-Fodder?

West Germany had nearly one and a half million unemployed at the end of January, it was officially announced in Bonn. This figure is 220,000 higher than at the same time last year.

PROPHETIC 1952 CARTOON

On August 15th 1952 GERMAN REPORT reprinted from "National Guardian" New York the prophetic caricature reproduced below.

"Hey you! Don't you know you have to salute allied officers?"

45-HOUR WEEK SPREADS

Fifty-three of East Germany's largest factories began to work a 45-hour week at the beginning of February. The change-over to the 45-hour week began in January in eleven pilot factories, and it is hoped to extend the cut in working hours to hundreds of other factories at the beginning of March. The cut in the working week does not entail any reduction in earnings.

The cut in working hours entails the introduction of a seven-and-a-half hour day, and this has made it necessary to revise radically train and bus time-tables so that workers can get to and from their factories at the new times. Wide-spread suggestions have been made that the cut in working time should be accomplished by means of a five-day working week, with nine hours work daily. Official government spokesmen have stated that such a change is impossible at the moment, since the electric power system is already overburdened, and would not be able to supply the power necessary on the five working days. Such a change would also entail an increase of at least 40,000 in the number of railway trucks in service, and such an enormous increase is for the moment unattainable.

Oder-Neisse Frontier Permanent

The Oder-Neisse frontier between Germany and Poland is a permanent frontier, and there is no intention of revising it, the Foreign Ministry of the German Democratic Republic emphasised on February 5th. The announcement contradicted a "New York Times" report that a revision of the frontier was intended.

The Polish Foreign Ministry made a similar announcement on February 8th.

CONDITIONS FOR REUNIFICATION

Socialist Unity Party Submits New Plan

West Germany will have to leave NATO before it is possible to take any serious steps towards the reunification of Germany, Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht stated at a meeting of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party at the beginning of February.

Walter Ulbricht, who is also First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, outlined a three-step programme which he declared could lead the way to reunification. The programme included the following main points:

1. West Germany should leave NATO, abolish conscription, end re-fascisation, liquidate the rule of the big monopolies, and carry through land reform and school reform.

2. The two German states should then nominate, on a basis of parity, representatives for an All-German Council, which would be the supreme authority in a German Federation formed by the two states.

3. The All-German Council could then work out details of free all-German elections to a National Assembly which should complete the work of re-unification.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party unanimously confirmed the proposals made by the First Secretary of the party.

Here are the proposals as outlined by Walter Ulbricht in his speech:

"The first step necessary is to get rid of the obstacles erected by the West German Parliament, and to create real pre-conditions for reunification. This entails West Germany leaving NATO and other military groupings. It would be a good thing if a plebiscite on this question could be held in West Germany.

"In order that the future united Germany should be a peaceful and democratic Germany, it is necessary that conscription should be abolished in West Germany, that the armed forces in both parts of Germany should be limited, and that leading nazi officials should be removed from the state and economic framework in West Germany. In addition a collective European security system with the participation of both German states must be created, and a zone of reduced armaments must be established.

"The German Democratic Republic does not demand that there should be a socialist reorganisation in West Germany as a condition of reunification: the liquidation of the rule of the monopolies in West Germany, the ending of the policy of re-militarisation and re-fascisation ... are general democratic and national demands. These demands can only be met if the German working class puts itself at the head of the struggle for the reunification of Germany. For this reason the proposals for reunification made by our party are addressed in the first place to the workers.

"We give our support to those sections of the population in West Germany which ask for the neutralisation of Germany, but we must point out that German neutrality can only be guaranteed if the imperialist and militarist forces are removed from power.

"The preparation of the peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany demands that the working class, in alliance with the middle class and sections of the national bourgeoisie themselves create the foundation for this.

"The first step must be the cancellation of the 'Factory Constitution Law', the creation of the full rights of the workers, including workers' control in the big factories. All the privileges of the big landowners must be wiped out, and full democratic rights granted to the working peasants ... It is necessary to carry out a plebiscite on the nationalisation of key industries, on democratic land reform, and on school reform. The particular conditions prevailing in West German must be taken into consideration. Holders of small packets of shares should receive full compensation, and the holders of larger quantities of shares can receive partial compensation if they support the programme of democratic reunification. Under the land reform only estates of over 100 hectares should be confiscated.

"When such conditions have been created... it will be possible to establish an All-German Council consisting of representatives of the two German states on a basis of parity. The members of the Council should be elected in both parts of Germany in accordance with the valid election laws. This All-German Council could be the organ for reuniting East and West Germany on the basis of a federation, and the Council could function as the government of the German Federation. It would prepare a united administration in Germany, particularly in such fields as a customs union, coordination commissions for questions of nationalised industry, for the creation of a united currency etc.

"The All-German Council would further, through negotiations on a basis of parity, work out the measures for holding free all-German elections to a national assembly.

"These proposals are of a really democratic character, since such free all-German general elections could be held without being influenced by the presence of foreign troops, financing of parties by the monopoly capitalists, or control by the monopolies of press and radio. Such elections will become possible when the people are able to exercise their rights freely in the economic and political field, when all foreign troops have left German territory, and when all foreign military bases have been liquidated.

"The National Assembly thus elected would have the responsible task of working out the constitution, and of selecting from its midst a government which would serve peace, democracy and progress."

News in Brief

Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus, commander of the German Army in the battle of Stalingrad, died in Dresden, German Democratic Republic, on February 1st. After his capture at Stalingrad Paulus allied himself with the "Free Germany" movement, and appealed by radio to end the war. After his return to Germany he settled in the German Democratic Republic and made a number of statements opposing the remilitarisation of West Germany and its integration in NATO.

* * *

Exhibitors from 40 different states will show their goods at the Leipzig Spring Fair from March 3rd to 14th. Businessmen from more than 50 different countries have already applied to visit the fair. More than one-eighth of all the exhibition space has been booked by West German firms.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

One of the first steps taken after the war in Democratic Germany was to ensure full equal rights for women. Equal rights in all fields without distinction of sex are guaranteed in the constitution, and the principle of equal pay for equal work has been practiced for so long that most people in the German Democratic Republic are rather astonished when they hear that in many western countries women receive lower pay than men.

But it is notoriously easier to lay down principles on paper than to convert them into living reality: and there are still many difficulties to be overcome before real equality becomes a fact.

Some of these difficulties are dealt with in the following critical article by an editorial writer of the "Berliner Zeitung", published on January 31st. Erich Schmidt, cartoonist of the same newspaper, made his own contribution to the discussion on the following day in the caricature reproduced on this page.

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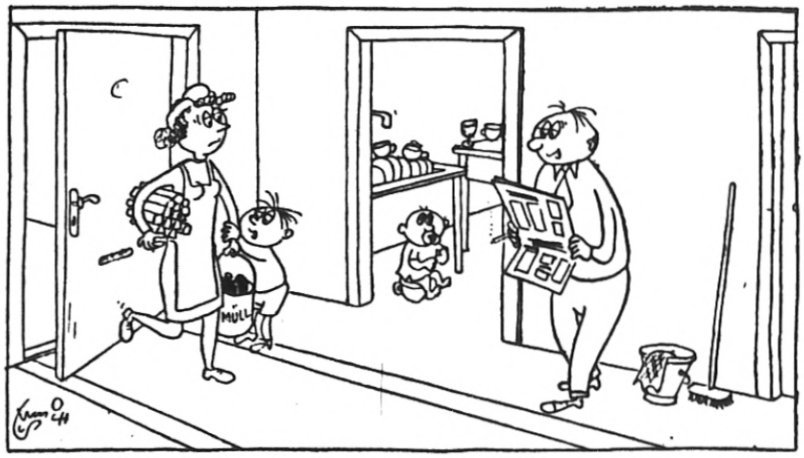

„Ah, there you are at last. The 'Berliner Zeitung' has an article about help for women who go out to work, and equal rights for women, and so on. You won't have any time to read it, so I shall read it and give you a short résumé."

A few months ago I read in the "Berliner Zeitung" that a housewife needs nine or ten hours a day for her housework, allowing only one hour for shopping. I suggested to the editorial board that our women have quite enough to do without exaggerating things. But if this is anywhere near the truth, working women have no choice but to neglect either their households, their children, their careers, their husbands or themselves.

It is a fact that many working women are involved in serious conflicts which are getting worse rather than better. The total number of working women is still on the increase, but it is a disquieting fact that during the last two years an ever-increasing number of women employed in responsible positions are leaving their jobs.

There are no statistics available, but spot checks in various fields of activity confirm this. At the beginning of the First Five Year Plan, for instance, there were a number of women directors of textile factories; today there is hardly a single one left. The wife of our clinic doctor, who was herself a school doctor, has had to give up her job because her four children were getting out of hand. This is not only a personal but also a social loss. The factories also complain that fewer women are training for better jobs.

Equality for women is anchored in the constitution in the German Democratic Republic; but it remains incomplete so long as material conditions do not permit of full equality. Many of these conditions do exist; equal pay for equal work is the rule here, while in West Germany women still get 30 per cent less wages for the same work. Women have been relieved of the care of their children to an extent previously quite unknown in Germany; 350,000 children are looked after in creches, kindergartens and after-school clubs.

But this is still not enough, and a great deal of money is to be spent on new kindergartens during the next five years. In West Germany there are about 3.4 million children who have no-one to care for them during the day. Our medical service for mother and child and for working women is excellent. Women have a legal monthly "household day" — which is not yet guaranteed in West Germany — and there are opportunities for half-time jobs.

Working women in the Republic get full social recognition. Revolutionary changes have taken place in the mental outlook of our women during the difficult reconstruction years when they worked alongside the men. The women of Socialist Germany are a new type. They are more selfconfident, and these changes will really show when Germany is reunited and the difference between women in East and West Germany becomes apparent.

Our women are equal but they have too many responsibilities. We have achieved many of the conditions necessary for their full equality — but not nearly enough. Have we made housework easier? We have been talking about this for years but have done precious little. Can women get better household utensils? Not many. Have we enlarged our laundries? Not yet.

But the worst thing is shopping. Shopping robs working women of most of their free time. There is no patent solution here, and the situation can only be improved by improvements in our production, increased variety and steady supply of goods.

It is illogical and unjust simply to hang the hours needed for housework on to women's working hours and then talk of equality. A woman actually needs even more free time than a man, for she must have a little time to take care of herself. After all, men do not only want comrades with equal rights; they want wives too.

And they must accept the consequences of all this. They must help with the housework. Factories must get rid of the obstacles in the way of half-time work. The city must increase the laundry service. The Women's Democratic Federation must push much more energetically for women's rights than it has done in the past.

And above all, our retail trade organisations must make really big efforts to get the things we need into the shops.

BRECHT'S "GALILEO"

Great Play Finely Played in East Berlin Premiere

In the middle of January theatre critics and playgoers from all over Europe travelled to Berlin. They made the journey for the sole purpose of attending the premiere in East Berlin of a great play "The Life of Galileo Galilei", by Bertolt Brecht, outstanding German dramatist who died last year. The journey was worth while, for the play, presented by Brecht's own theatre, the "Berliner Ensemble", was one of the high points of European theatrical life in this or any other year.

Bertolt Brecht, driven from Germany by the nazis, wrote this play in exile in Denmark in the years 1938—39. A note in the printed version of the play states: "The newspapers had carried the news of the splitting, by German physicists, of the uranium atom", and Brecht himself, in a note written at a later date, stated: "The atomic bomb, both as a technical and as a social phenomenon, is the classic final product of scientific endeavour and social failure".

The play is a highly dramatic and moving presentation of the social responsibility of the scientist and researcher, a social responsibility betrayed by Galileo, who first determined that the earth moves round the sun, and then recanted his discovery when threatened by the Inquisition.

Like all great art, Brecht's play is timeless, and in criticising Galileo the great dramatist not only criticised the modern physicists who released atomic power but did not tame it, but also all people, in all times and all circumstances who renounce their beliefs under the attacks of the reactionaries and the dogmatists. Even if this recantation is performed for apparently excellent motives, and even if these people, and their beliefs, are later rehabilitated, the harm that they do to the whole course of progress remains.

On these pages GERMAN REPORT presents two key scenes from "Galileo", and pictures of the Berlin performance. This English version is based on an English translation made in America in the 1940's, and approved by Bertolt Brecht. A few minor textual changes have been made in accordance with later revisions in the German text made by the author.

Galileo (Ernst Busch) displays his telescope to the Venetian Senate. In the background the lens-grinder Federzoni (Gerd Schaeffer)

Galileo explains the rotation of the planets to the royal mathematician of the court of the Medicis at Florence (Wolfram Handel)

Scene 13: Galileo's Recantation

(The gardens of the Florentine Ambassador at Rome, where Galileo's assistants await the news of the trial. Virginia [Galileo's daughter] kneels praying.)

Little Monk: The Pope didn't even grant him an audience.

Federzoni: No more scientific discussions.

Andrea: The 'Discorsi', the sum of his findings will never be finished. They will kill him.

Federzoni: Do you really think so?

Andrea: He will never recant.

Little Monk: You know when you lie awake at night how your mind fastens on something. Last night I kept thinking: if only they would let him take his little stone with him, the appeal-to-reason pebble, that he always carries in his pocket.

Federzoni: In the room they'll take him to, he won't wear pockets.

Andrea: But he will not recant.

Little Monk: How can they beat the truth out of a man who gave his sight to see?

Federzoni: Maybe they can't.

(Informer enters)

Informer: Mr Galilei will be here soon. (Virginia stops praying). He may need a bed.

Federzoni: Have they let him out?

Informer: Mr Galilei is expected to recant at five o'clock. As soon as he recants the big bell of St Marcus will be rung and the complete text of his recantation publicly announced.

Andrea: I do not believe it.

Informer: Mr Galilei will be brought to the garden gate at the back of the house to avoid the crowds collecting in the street. (Informer exits. Virginia's prayer again becomes audible).

Andrea: (Shouting above the prayer.) The moon is an earth because the light of the moon is not her own. Four moons turn round Jupiter, therefore we are not shut in by crystal shells, the sun is the pivot of our world, therefore the earth is not the centre. The earth moves, spinning about the sun.

Federzoni: And he showed us.

Little Monk: You cannot make a man unsee what he has seen.

Federzoni: It is five o'clock.

Andrea: They are executing the truth.

(Andrea, Little Monk put their hands over their ears. A pause, then Federzoni goes upstage to look at the clock.)

Federzoni: No bell! No bell! And it's after the hour!

(Virginia prostrates herself. Little Monk pulls Andrea's hands from his ears.)

Little Monk: He hasn't.

Andrea: He held true. It is all right, it is all right.

Little Monk: He did not recant.

Federzoni: No.

Andrea: So force cannot accomplish everything. So stupidity is not invincible. So man is constant in the face of death.

Ferderzoni: June 22nd 1633, the dawn of the age of reason. I wouldn't have wanted to go on living if he had recanted.

Little Monk: I didn't say anything, but I confess that I was in agony. Oh, ye of little faith.

Andrea: I was sure, I was sure.

Galileo prepares for an experiment with his pupils, the Little Monk (Lothar Bellag), Andrea (Fred Dueren) and Federzoni (Gerd Schaeffer)

The agent of the Inquisition (Axel Triebel) in the background waits to arrest Galileo, talking with his daughter Virginia (Regine Lutz)

Federzoni: It would have been as if the dawn had turned into dark night again.

Andrea: As if the mountain said "I am water".

Little Monk (praying): Gloria in exelsis Deo et in terra pax...

Andrea: Beaten humanity can lift it's head, for one man has stood up and said "no".

(At this moment the bell of St Marcus begins to toll. They stand like statues. Virginia rises to her feet.)

Virginia: The bell of St Marcus. He is not damned.

(From the street the town crier is heard reading Galileo's recantation.)

Town Crier: "I, Galileo Galilei, Teacher of Mathematics and Physics, do hereby publicly renounce my teaching that the earth moves. I forswear this teaching with a sincere heart and unfeigned faith, and detest and curse this and all other errors and heresies repugnant to the Holy Scriptures".

(Galileo enters. He is absolutely changed and almost unrecognisable. He waits some seconds by the door for somebody to greet him. Nobody does. He goes slowly to the bench and sits down.)

Andrea: I can't look at him. Tell him to go away.

Federzoni: Steady.

Andrea (hysterically): He saved his big gut.

Galileo: Get him some water.

(Little Monk crosses to exit and returns with glass of water which he takes to Andrea. Andrea refuses it and rises.)

Andrea: I can walk. Just help me a little.

(Federzoni and Little Monk help him. He stops, turns to Galileo.)

Andrea: "Unhappy is the land that breeds no hero".

Galileo: Incorrect. "Unhappy is the land that needs a hero".

(Curtain)

Scene 14: Science Betrayed

Scene 14. About nine years later. Galileo lives as a prisoner of the Inquisition in a country house near Florence. He is visited by Andrea, his former pupil.

Andrea (coolly): Have you been keeping well, Mr Galilei?

Galileo: I am very well... On account of the depth of my repentance I live in comparative comfort.

Andrea: Yes, we understand that the Church is more than pleased with you. Your complete acceptance has had its effect. Not one single paper expounding a new thesis has made its appearance in Italy since your submission.

Galileo: Unfortunately there are countries not under the wing of the Church. Would you not say the erroneously condemned theories are still taught there?

Andrea: Things are almost at a standstill.

Galileo: Are they? Nothing from Descartes in Paris?

Andrea: Yes. On the news of your recantation, he shelved his treatise on the nature of light.

Galileo: I sometimes worry about my assistants whom I led into error. Have they benefited by my example?

Andrea: In order to work I have to go to Holland. Federzoni is grinding lenses again back in some shop... Our Little Monk has abandoned research and is resting in peace in the church.

Galileo: I have something for you. As my superiors might put it, I suffer from relapses.

Andrea: I would rather not intrude.

Galileo: I completed the 'Discorsi'.

Andrea: You completed what?

Galileo: My 'Discorsi'.

Andrea: Here?

Galileo: My superiors are most understanding. They know a great vice cannot be cured all at once. I am allowed pen and paper. Of course they lock my pages away as I dictate them.

Andrea: The 'Discorsi' in their hands! Amsterdam, London and Prague are starved for this book.

Galileo: I copied the 'Discorsi' out during the nights. I suppose it is the height of folly to pass it on. You will find it hidden in the globe there. My foolish vanity has prevented me from destroying it up to now. If you are considering taking it, you will shoulder your full share of the risk. If you are searched at the Italian border you will state that you bought a copy from someone who had access to the original in the hands of the Holy Office.

Andrea: The 'Discorsi'! (he reads) "It is my purpose to set forth a very new science dealing with a very ancient subject — motion. Through experiments I have determined some of its qualities..."

Galileo: I had to employ my time somehow.

Andrea: This will found a new physics. And we thought you had deserted. Mine has been the loudest voice against you.

Galileo: That would seem to have been proper. I taught you science and I denied the truth.

Andrea: This changes everything.

Galileo: Yes?

Andrea: You hid the truth from the enemy. In your dealings with the Inquisition you simply made use of the common sense you brought to physics. In the field of ethics too you were centuries ahead of us.

Galileo: Explain that, Andrea.

Andrea: We lost our heads. With the crowd at the street corners we said: "He will die, he will never recant!" You came back and said: "I surrendered but I am alive". We cried: "Your hands are stained!" You say: "Better stained than empty".

Galileo: "Better stained than empty". New. Sounds realistic. Sounds like me. New science... new ethics...

Andrea: I of all people should have understood. I was twelve when you sold another man's telescope to the Venetian Senate, and saw you put it to immortal use. Your friends were baffled when you bowed to the child prince of Florence: science gained a wider audience.

Galileo: I remember.

Andrea: So, when you stooped to recant in '33, I should have understood that you were simply withdrawing from a hopeless political dispute in order to pursue further your real business of science.

Galileo: My business being...?

Andrea: To write a book that only you could write. If you had ended on the stake, then the others would have been victors.

Galileo: They are the victors. And there is no such thing as a scientific work that only one man can write.

Andrea: Then why did you recant?

Galileo: I recanted because I was afraid of physical pain.

Andrea: No!

Galileo: They showed me the instruments.

Andrea: Then it was not a plan?

Galileo: It was not.

Andrea: Science has only one commandment: contribution. And you have contributed.

Galileo: Contributed to whom? Welcome to the gutter, brother-scientist and fellow-traitor. I sold out, you are a buyer. The first sight of the book! His mouth watered and the scoldings were drowned. Blessed be

our bargaining, white-washing, death-fearing community.

Andrea: The fear of death is human. That is human.

Galileo: Even the Church will teach you that to be weak is not human. It is just bad.

Andrea: Science is not concerned with our personal weakness.

Galileo: No? If scientists give way to coercion, science can be crippled. I take it the intent of science is to ease human existence. Should you, in time, discover all there is to be discovered, your progress must then be a progress away from the bulk of humanity. The gulf between you and humanity might even grow so wide that the sound of your cheering at some new achievement could be echoed by a universal howl of horror. Word is passed down that it is of no concern to the scientist who is told he must only release such of his findings as do not disturb the peace. Doesn't this commonly reduce itself to the peace of mind of the well-to-do? For what reason do you labour? As a scientist I had an almost unique opportunity. In my day astronomy emerged into the market places. At that particular time, had one man put up a fight, it could have had wide repercussions. I have formed the opinion that I was never in real danger. For some years I was as strong as the authorities, and I surrendered my knowledge to the powers that be for them to use, not to use, or to misuse, for their own ends. I have betrayed my profession. Any man who does what I have done cannot be tolerated in the ranks of science.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

A Parody by Ernst Stein

(In East Germany, for the first time in German history, children are being educated in the schools in a spirit of humanism and internationalism, educated to become good citizens of the world. But East German schools are not perfect yet, by any means, and a lively discussion is at present in progress in the educational press of the German Democratic Republic on ways and means of improving it still further. One of the shortcomings criticised today by many teachers is that "social significance" is sometimes injected in large doses into subjects like lyric poetry where it has no real place. The satire published on these pages was originally printed on January 12th in the "Deutsche Lehrerzeitung", weekly newspaper of the teachers of the German Democratic Republic.)

Tired and desperate, I sat preparing for my literature class, and had still found no inspiration when our headmaster laid his hand on my shoulder and asked me in fatherly tones what was troubling me. I showed him the supplementary reading for my literature lesson — Goethe's little poem, "Blumengruss" (Flower Greeting):

Let the flowers I plucked
Greet you many thousand times!
Oft have I stooped,
Ach, perhaps many thousand times,
And pressed them to my heart
How many hundred thousand times!

He read the verse and nodded appreciatively: "A beautiful poem, colleague. What's your difficulty with it?"

"Oh, Herr Direktor", I sighed, "what shall I do with it? It is a sweet little ditty, such as Goethe wrote by the dozen — but what is it doing in our syllabus? I simply don't know how I can talk about it for more than ten minutes to my thirteen-year-olds."

"No, no, colleague, we mustn't give up so easily. The very art of dealing with poems lies in making much out of little. The directives in our teaching plan give us invaluable guidance here too." And he read out: "The teacher should make the meaning of Goethe's poem clear to his pupils by pointing out the charming old custom of giving pleasure to loved ones by presenting them with flowers, accompanied by heartfelt words or a short verse. The treatment of this little poem offers manifold opportunities of exercising educational influence on pupils."

"So you see", he said, "a charming lesson can be built up along these lines."

"I shook my head resignedly. "What frightens me is this business of manifold educational opportunities. I have serious doubts of my capabilities. Perhaps I ought to give up teaching..."

"Chin up, young man", said he comfortingly. "Come and listen to me tomorrow. I can show you how to treat this poem and what manifold educational opportunities it offers. I have some good ideas already." He pressed my hand and strode away.

Next day several literature teachers turned up and the presence of the school inspector, who proceeded with dignity to a seat at the back of the class, provided the finishing touch.

Our headmaster first called on some pupils to repeat what they knew of Goethe's life; he then summarised this — in the very words of the teaching directive, so much had they grown to be a part of him:

"We have thus learnt how Goethe loved the beauties of Nature, how during his Strasbourg period he wandered through the Alsatian countryside and collected folk songs, how he interested himself in the life of the common people and tried to help them.

"Today" he continued, raising his voice, "we shall discover how Goethe not only loved the beauties of Nature, but also sought to make use of them and convey them to others. We shall learn that he not only collected folk songs, but also flowers and other objects; and then you will hear how Goethe tried to help the common people. All this we shall learn from the following poem, one of the most inspired masterpieces of our great national poet."

He read the poem in ringing tones, then proceeded to explain it, recalling the beautiful old custom of giving loved ones pleasure through flowers and enriching the gift with an accompanying verse. The children, with great enthusiasm, worked out a number of verses suitable for various gifts. Here is a successful effort:

Let the bonbons hidden here
Greet you a thousand times!
I have already licked them
Ach, perhaps many thousand times.
They tasted so good
How many hundred thousand times!

Another verse evidenced considerable unevenness both in language and in content:

Let the schnapps which I bought
Greet you a thousand times!
To the pub I runned
Ach, perhaps many thousand times.
And got sozzled
How many hundred thousand times!

As homework, the headmaster then gave the children the task of improving the less successful lines and thinking out other verses which could be presented with gifts of fruit, soap, toilet paper, lingerie etc. Returning to the poem, "What was Goethe's gift?" he asked; but was not satisfied with the spontaneous answer — "Flowers". A very fruitful discussion then developed on exactly what flowers Goethe could have picked for his nosegay. On the blackboard appeared various headings — what flowers bloom in August? — the meadow flora of our central mountain area — what plants are under nature protection and should therefore not have been plucked by Goethe, etc.

Instruction here took on the character of a biology class and showed in what an effortless way the connection between the two branches of learning could be established. The thought on nature protection, especially, furnished a basis for urgent warnings and placed upon Young Pioneers the task of protecting and preserving our native plant world.

Turning to details of language, our headmaster asked: "How often did Goethe greet the recipient of his gift?" The children grasped the fact that the poet did not restrict himself to a definite number and they now had the task of determining what "many thousand times" might have meant, thus cheerfully and fluently practising numbers from a thousand to a million.

Here followed the next question: how often did the poet stoop? The children soon came to the conclusion that the old Goethe, who found stooping painful, must have exaggerated this; in fact he probably only stooped 100 or 120 times.

Deeply impressed, we visiting teachers glanced at each other, having no notion that the headmaster had still not played his strongest educational trump. He threw us a triumphant glance as he put his next question: "For whom did Goethe pick this nosegay?" The children made several guesses, but were as surprised as we when he began an exciting tale.

In language full of imagery he told how Goethe, while out walking, once met a poor ragged woman — an unemployed worker — with her sick child in her arms, who begged a modest alms of him. Goethe, at that time deeply preoccupied with his "Faust", had left his purse at home and was not in a position to make a donation. With quick decision, the poet turned into a meadow and although stooping was difficult for him, plucked a big bunch of healing herbs — which he of course readily recognised as a result of his botanical studies. He presented it to the poor mother and increased her joy by declaiming this little poem. He then suggested she brew a healthful herb tea for the sick child.

The children were deeply moved; once more, in the words of the teaching directive, they had been shown our national poet and his support for the simple people "in an important situation in his life and in clear and memorable words". They then repeated the story and our headmaster cleverly anchored what he had said in a comparison with another Goethe poem which the children had learnt two years earlier: "Found" (I wandered alone in the woods ...") With his guidance they soon discovered that Goethe's ideological development could be clearly traced in these two poems.

In the earlier poem Goethe had dug up a flower with all its roots, thus damaging the earth's surface. In the later poem he only plucked the flowers, thus sparing the plant. In the old poem he carried the flowers "to a quiet place . . . to the beautiful house", ie., for his own private pleasure. In the later poem he plucked the flowers for others, to help the working people.

Other points of comparison were similarly worked out, and our headmaster wrote up the following question on the blackboard: "Compare the poems 'Found' and 'Flower Greeting'; state how far the two agree or differ, and show Goethe's development from egotistic to conscious, militant flower-picking". For the work of the Young Poet's Study Circle he suggested a re-wording of the poem "Found" to raise it to the ideological level of "Flower Greeting".

"Dear children" our headmaster concluded, "we have today followed a poet along the path which led him from egotism and private hobbies to conscious collection, to help for the exploited working class. But we must not ignore the fact that Goethe was unable to pass beyond the barriers of his times. He only helped single exploited persons and did not see the way to their final liberation. We have taken this path; we therefore collect more consciously than Goethe: no longer for single persons in need, but for the nationally owned medicinal herb production which benefits all creative people."

After the lesson we met for a short consultation with the school inspector.

"I believe", said our headmaster with justifiable pride, "that I have perhaps in some sense done justice to the authors of the directive and to their suggestions. Or perhaps there were some possibilities of educational influence which I missed?"

The school inspector cleared his throat.

"Now colleagues", he said, "the lesson was not at all bad, but I did miss a stronger link with present-day problems. How close, for instance, lies the thought: the same plants bloom in the East and West of our German homeland — what can we do to make it a united blooming meadow?"

The headmaster paled. "Now I see how truly inexhaustible the poem is! Let us render thanks to the teaching directive and its wise editors who selected it for us!"

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Co-operation in Practice

By Joan Becker

There are two kinds of craftsmen's cooperatives in East Germany — purchase and delivery cooperatives of independent master craftsmen, and producers' cooperatives where all full-time workers of former small firms, including the former owner, become members. In both cases membership is absolutely voluntary.

Any craftsman who has a master's diploma and does not employ more than ten full-time workers can be a member of a purchase and delivery cooperative, and about 80 per cent of Berlin's master craftsmen, for instance, are already members.

There are thirty-one such cooperatives in E. Berlin, each consisting of many member firms grouped according to trades — plumbers, hairdressers, tailors, opticians etc. Members pay an initial sum based on the number of workers employed and amount of material used, which forms the necessary reserve fund for the cooperative. During the initial organisation period members need pay no taxes on profits until they exceed the amount originally paid in to the reserve fund.

A voluntary committee consisting of at least one third master craftsmen elected by members, and not more than one third members of the district council, deals with all questions of purchase and delivery, but since all such work is voluntary, various commissions are elected from amongst members to deal with special problems and thus spread the work.

The full members' meeting has the final authority, and the district administration or the district chambers of craftsmen only interfere if something goes definitely wrong.

Apart from better opportunities of collective buying from the central state wholesale agencies, the greatest advantage in these cooperatives is in getting orders. The Berlin cap-makers' cooperative, for instance, with its fifty member firms, gets steady direct contracts from the railways, breweries, street cleaners, police, air line and so on, for uniform caps; individual members have only to fulfil their share of contracts and do not have to bother their heads about canvassing for orders.

Members of these cooperatives also come under the new 1956 social insurance regulations for free lancers and private tradesmen. Contributions are considerably higher then hitherto in these groups, but are fixed at 170 per cent of basic tax payments; a ladies' hairdresser whose basic tax is 464 marks a year, for example, pays 790.80 marks a year social insurance. But he now enjoys the same social insurance and pension benefits as workers, with the exception that sick pay starts after the third day of illness.

*

The second kind — producers' cooperatives — are Socialist in form, and former private owners do not get much initial financial benefit from setting up a cooperative; in fact, they may have to be content with less for a time. These people must therefore have some faith in the Socialist future of the German Democratic Republic, and since craftsmen in general are extremely disinterested in politics their number is as yet small.

In Berlin there are at present 24 producers' cooperatives. Those eligible for membership are craftsmen and owners of small firms who are registered as such, qualified craftsmen working in small firms or workshops, mechanics, technicians, employees and apprentices over 15 years of age who are getting their training in the cooperative.

Not eligible are owners or managers of industrial concerns which are not registered with the Chamber of Craftsmen (ie., which employ more than 10 workers), or members of their families, or publishers or wholesalers. Workers from nationally owned concerns are also not accepted for membership.

All members have equal rights and at least 30 per cent of annual profits must be paid out to members, the distribution to be decided upon by the full members' meeting, which is the final authority. The other part of the profits has to be devoted to social welfare (10 per cent), cultural purposes (5 per cent), accumulation fund (about 25 per cent) and investment fund (about 20 per cent). The proportions may vary according to varying needs in different cooperatives.

Wages are generally paid according to performance. In a furniture and upholstery cooperative — of which there is one in Berlin — or in the carpenters' and housepainters' cooperatives, this is simple; but in a hairdressers' cooperative for instance pay can only be fixed by experience.

Cooperative members are no longer organised in trade unions, but they pay the usual social insurance contributions and can allocate money from profits, for emergency payments in cases of birth or accident, for cultural purposes and so on. They also receive holiday checks for trade union holiday homes, but have to pay somewhat more than trade unionists. So it is clear that a former owner must have some other incentive to go into cooperation with his workers.

Conditions in the Berlin furniture and upholstery cooperative provide an explanation of this. This is a combination of two small private upholsterers and a cabinet-maker, with their workers. The upholsterers, who had long wanted to try out new designs in couches, armchairs etc., could not persuade cabinet-makers to stop work on their other routine orders in order to execute the few orders from them, so that they could never launch out on a big enough scale to enable them to buy good, new upholstery materials — hand or machine-woven — such as many people wanted to buy.

If the three firms had combined privately they would no longer have been eligible for membership of the Chamber of Craftsmen, since they would have had too many workers, and would thus have forfeited various advantages in taxation and simplified book-keeping granted to craftsmen.

But since they have combined with their workers to form a cooperative they have other financial advantages, ie., they do not have to pay turnover tax, or the tax based on the number of workers employed. Turnover tax is remitted for two years, provided that an equivalent sum is paid into the accumulation fund.

This cooperative is now turning out delightful new models which are for sale in a bright, newly decorated show-room. It has much better facilities for buying wholesale, has received a grant from the national building fund to repair a big building for store-rooms, and it will exhibit its new models in Munich, West Germany, this summer.

The three former owners do not yet have a financial benefit from the change-over, since they receive salaries decided upon by the cooperative members as a whole; but the increase in business in the half-year of its existence is striking. There are now 45 members and eight apprentices working here — compared with 19 members and 2 apprentices last July — and profits have increased considerably.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A minister of the German Democratic Republic was a little surprised last week to find himself being teased by foreign journalists because he does not help his wife to do the washing up: I must say the minister, Curt Wach, Minister of Trade and Supply, took the ribbing very well.

The episode occurred when the ministry invited foreign correspondents accredited in East Berlin to an informatory talk on new methods being introduced here in retail trade. In reply to a question, the minister said a few words about kitchen and household appliances designed to help women in their housework, and he was rather astonished when a correspondent from one of the Scandinavian countries asked him whether men did not help in the housework too. This led to a barrage of questions - and remarks from journalists from many parts of the world, who all expressed their surprise that men in Germany in most cases still allow their wives to do all the work in the house, even in those cases where the wives go out to work too.

Overworked

Ministers and other responsible officials in the German Democratic Republic are notoriously overworked, so no-one will seriously blame Minister Wach if he leaves the housework up to Mrs Wach; particularly since he told us that he had tried to help sometimes and his wife had thrown him out of the kitchen because he made such a mess of things.

But this conservative attitude on the part of very many men in Germany — in both parts of Germany, I should like to emphasise — is something which will probably take a long time to overcome. Progressive Germans are worried by it too, as is shown by the leading article from the "Berliner Zeitung", reproduced on another page of this issue.

The attitude that nearly all sorts of housework is "women's work" is very deeply engrained here, I have discovered. It is, for instance, regarded as extremely "infra dig" for a man to wheel a baby's pram, and if for one reason or another a man has to go shopping for groceries the chances are that he stuffs his purchases into a leather brief case to avoid carrying them openly in a shopping basket.

My wife is Bulgarian, not German, but she has lived here for a long time and got used to this attitude: you can therefore imagine her initial surprise when a British Member of Parliament came to dinner not so long ago, and after dinner rolled up his sleeves and asked for a dish-cloth so he could help to do the washing up.

After these provocative paragraphs I can now sit back and wait for the letters of protest to roll in. I expect two categories:

a) From the German women who will write in indignantly telling me that their husbands always help with the washing up; and

b) From the wives of British M.P.s who tell me that their husbands never help.

Problem

While we are still on domestic problems, here is a little one which I have. I took a silent resolution when our baby Miriam was born six months ago not to bore readers with constant notes on what a marvellous baby she is. Now paternal pride has triumphed over editorial discretion, and I must say that she is undoubtedly not only the most beautiful but also the most intelligent baby in the world. There is only one difficulty: I have taken to singing to her (anyone who knows my voice will feel sorry), and the song which she undoubtedly likes best is Widdicombe Fair. However, I can only remember the first two verses, and constant repetition of these two verses is sending my wife crazy. Any kind reader who could spare five minutes to write down all the verses and send them to me would be assured of constant gratitude.

"Un-German"

But now back to the political scene. In the past few years we have all got used to hearing of "Un-American" activities. This "un-" label for anything we don't like has spread to other countries: I recall that a year or two ago a London magistrate remonstrated with a Dutch sailor who had bitten off the ear of an opponent in a brawl that "It is most un-British to bite off people's ears".

And now we have the "un-Germans". It all happened in the West German university town of Goettingen a week or two ago. A motion was submitted to the town council that two squares in the town should be named after the great German physicist Albert Einstein and the great German writer Thomas Mann.

A spokesman of the neo-nazi German Reich Party immediately leaped to his feet in great excitement, and shouted that these two great Germans were "typically un-German". "You may call me a fascist and an anti-Semite if you wish, but that is what I believe" he stated. And the representatives of the other parties in this town council in "democratic West Germany" meekly acquiesced to the demand of this vest-pocket McCarthy. They discovered a fine cowardly escape route, ruling that the two squares were not really squares at all, but merely street crossings, and therefore did not need to have names.

Apology

Regular readers will perhaps have noted that the issue of GERMAN REPORT which should have been published on February 1st did not appear. The explanation is quite simple: your editor was down with a nasty bout of flu, and since the staff of this paper is microscopic, this meant no paper. Apologies, and we hope it does not happen again.

Excuse

Sharp-eyed readers of GERMAN REPORT will sometimes have noticed typographical errors which have got into the paper despite all our efforts: and in the past we have made various excuses for these mistakes. I wish I had thought of the excuse which has now been provided by a Canadian paper, the weekly "Beaver", published in the little town of Nepanee, Ontario:

"You may notice some typographical errors in this paper. They were put in intentionally. This paper tries to print something for everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes."

Monthly Crack

"Do you know the real 'German miracle'? West Germany has had full sovereignty for a year and a half now, and we haven't marched in anywhere yet!"

Comedian on a West German TV programme.

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